IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A binding processing apparatus comprising:

a punching device;

a sheet table on which sheets of paper punched by the punching device are stacked;

a binding mechanism section in which a division ring type binder is simultaneously attached to a plurality of punch holes of one set of sheets of paper stacked on the sheet table;

a first positioning mechanism for positioning the sheets of paper in a sheet conveyance direction; and

a second positioning mechanism for positioning the sheets of paper in a direction perpendicular to the sheet conveyance direction,

wherein the first and the second positioning mechanism position the sheets of paper so that the punch holes on the sheets of paper agree with a binding piece that simultaneously interlocks with the plurality of punch holes at a time of binder attaching processing.

2. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first positioning mechanism includes a sheet forward end position regulating plate capable of being retracted and provided at a forward end portion of the sheet table as a reference of aligning the forward end portions of the sheets of paper, and after one set of sheets of paper is positioned, the sheet forward end position regulating plate is retracted and the one set of sheets of paper are sent to the binding mechanism section.

3. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second positioning mechanism is capable of being raised and retracted from the sheet table.

4. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an upper side slide pin capable of descending downward from an upper position of the sheet table to the sheet table,

wherein the upper side slide pin is inserted into a punch hole formed on the sheets of paper on the sheet table so as to position the sheets of paper on the basis of the punch hole.

5. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a movable clamp for clamping the sheets of paper after the sheets of paper have been positioned by the upper side slide pin,

wherein the slide pin is retracted and the sheets of paper are sent to the binding mechanism section after the sheets of paper are clamped.

6. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein after the upper side slide pin positions the sheets of paper and the movable clamp clamps the sheets of paper, the slide pin is retracted and the movable clamp is released so as to prepare for a supply of the next sheets of paper.

7. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a lower side slide pin capable of ascending upward from a lower portion of the sheet table; and an upper side slide pin,

wherein the sheets of paper are positioned on the basis of the punch holes when the upper side and the lower side slide pin are inserted into the punch holes formed on the sheets of paper.

8. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a movable clamp for clamping the sheets of paper after the sheets of paper are positioned by the upper and the lower side slide pins,

wherein the upper and the lower side slide pins are retracted and the sheets of paper are sent to the binding mechanism section, after the sheets of paper are clamped.

9. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the slide pin is retracted and the movable clamp is released so as to prepare for a supply of the next sheets of paper, after the upper side slide pin positions the sheets of paper and the movable clamp clamps the sheets of paper.

10. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sheet table moving mechanism for advancing the sheet table to the binding mechanism section and for retracting the sheet table from the binding mechanism section; and

a sheet table rotating mechanism for rotating the sheet table from a position opposed to the binding mechanism section so as to discharge the sheets of paper.

11. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a booklet discharge mechanism for discharging a booklet which has been subjected to the binding process.

12. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the booklet discharge mechanism discharges booklets, while the booklets are successively and

alternately being shifted from each other in a lateral direction so that the rings of the binder attached to the next row of booklet can enter spaces formed between the rings of the binder attached to the front row of booklet.

13. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the booklet discharge mechanism successively shifts a falling position of the booklet in a longitudinal direction so that the ring binders of the booklets can not be overlapped on each other.

14. (Amended) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a container for receiving booklets discharged after the completion of ~~biding~~ binding processing,

wherein the container includes partitions for dividing the discharged booklets one by one, and the booklet discharge mechanism discharges the booklets one by one into the spaces divided by the partitions.

15. (Original) The binding processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a container for receiving booklets discharged after the completion of binding processing;

a plurality of vertical type slats respectively provided on the right and the left in the container; and

a longitudinally moving mechanism of moving the vertical slats,

wherein the right and the left vertical type slats are synchronously driven, and the booklets, which are discharged after the completion of biding processing, are accommodated in the spaces, which are divided by the vertical type slats, one by one.

16. (New) A binding processing apparatus comprising:

a punching device;

a sheet table on which sheets of paper punched by the punching device are stacked;

a binding mechanism section in which a division ring type binder is attached to punch holes of one set of sheets of paper stacked on the sheet table;

a first positioning mechanism for positioning the sheets of paper in a sheet conveyance direction, the first positioning mechanism including a sheet forward end position regulating plate capable of being retracted and provided at a forward end portion of the sheet table as a reference for aligning the forward end portions of the sheets of paper; and

a second positioning mechanism for positioning the sheets of paper in a direction perpendicular to the sheet conveyance direction,

wherein the first and the second positioning mechanisms position the sheets of paper such that the punch holes on the sheets of paper agree with a binding piece and the sheet forward end position regulating plate is retracted at a time of binder attaching processing.

17. (New) A binding processing apparatus comprising:

a housing which comprises

a first end, and

a second end spaced vertically from the first end; and

a binding process device having a first longitudinal axis disposed between the first and second ends which comprises

a binding process device frame,

a sheet guide unit that directs first and second sheets of paper in a first direction, the first sheet of paper and the second sheet of paper each having a plurality of punch holes, the sheet guide unit including

a reference positioning plate for positioning the first and second sheets of paper at a reference position in a direction perpendicular to the first direction, and

a movable positioning plate separated from the reference position plate such that the movable position plate oscillates to push the first sheet of paper and the second sheet of paper against the reference positioning plate;

a sheet table disposed between the sheet guide unit and the first end which comprises

a sheet table frame having first and second ends, the first end of the sheet table frame and the binding process device frame forming a hinge such that the sheet table frame pivots between a closed position in which the binding process device frame abuts the second end of the sheet table and an open position in which the second end of the sheet table frame is rotated away from the binding process device frame,

a surface connected to the sheet table frame such that the surface supports the first and second sheets of paper in the closed and open positions, and

a clamp secured to the sheet table frame which comprises

a raised configuration such that the sheet clamp is disposed a first distance from the surface, and

a lowered configuration such that sheet clamp is disposed a second distance from the surface, the first distance being greater than the second distance; and

a binding mechanism section disposed between the sheet table and the first end which comprises

a binder cartridge including a front face,

upper and lower binding ring pushers proximate the front face, and

a sheet forward end regulating plate opposite the binder cartridge and adjacent the sheet table such that the sheet forward end regulating plate includes

an extended position in which the sheet forward end regulating plate blocks conveyance of the first and second sheets to the front face of the binder cartridge, and

a retracted position in which the sheet forward end regulating plate allows conveyance of the first and second sheets to the front face of the binder cartridge,

wherein the binding process device comprises

a first configuration for binding the first and second sheets such that the sheet table frame is in the closed position, the clamp is in the lowered position, and the sheet forward end regulating plate is in the retracted position, and

a second configuration for discharging the first and second sheets such that the sheet table frame is in the open position, and the clamp is in the raised configuration.

18. (New) The binding processing apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a punching unit with first and second discharge rollers disposed adjacent the sheet guide unit such that the punching unit punches each of the first and second sheets of paper to form the

plurality of punch holes on the first and second sheets of paper and the first and second discharge rollers transfer the first and second sheets of paper to the sheet guide unit.